

VISTA Blend FAQ for Supervisors

What are these online courses?

The VISTA Blend courses support the mission of VISTA by giving VISTAs access to education while building their capacity to be more effective volunteers. Courses will be offered in three key areas: Resource Development, Volunteer Management and Poverty in the U.S. All of the courses were designed specifically for the unique circumstances, opportunities, and challenges faced by VISTAs. Each course has an expert facilitator who will lead students through a variety of interactive skill- and knowledge-building activities in a virtual classroom on the VISTA Campus. The courses were created by VISTA and our partners at Education Northwest and Bank Street College of Education, who bring more than 16 years of experience designing and delivering training to VISTA members and supervisors.

What does my VISTA get out of it?

Skills and knowledge that can help your VISTA serve more effectively. Those who successfully complete the course will also earn transferable academic college credit recommendations, thanks to our partnership with the American Council on Education.

What does my organization get out of it?

The courses have a learn-by-doing approach that can reduce your VISTA's "learning curve" and enhance productivity, particularly for VISTAs new to the nonprofit sector or the work world. Your VISTA will learn how to develop targeted products and relationships that can grow and sustain your organization's efforts. Your VISTA will also have access to readings and materials that she can bring back to your site and use to build the capacity of your organization and community.

The course can also support your VISTA's motivation, service satisfaction, and morale. The opportunity to acquire nonprofit-management knowledge, skills and transferable college credits through VISTA service is a strong retention incentive.

Do I have any role to play in the course?

We would like you to meet periodically with your VISTA to review progress, discuss course content, and offer encouragement. This will add another dimension to discussions with your VISTA, but should not add a great deal of time or effort to your role as a VISTA supervisor.

How much of my time will this take?

We hope you can be available on an informal, unscheduled basis to answer questions your VISTA may have that arise from the course materials and activities. We estimate these tasks will require a total of about three hours of your time. And of course, giving input and feedback can be incorporated into your regular supervisory interactions.

Is there a cost involved?

The courses are FREE. VISTAs who wish to access course credits upon completing the course will pay a small transcript fee (approximately \$40) to the American Council on Education.

Is this going to distract my VISTA from his work?

In the spirit of service learning, course activities will be practical and applicable, to the fullest extent possible. We believe this course will not intrude upon the VISTA's responsibilities in any significant way.

Who can I talk to if I have questions or concerns?

Email our registrar with any questions: VBlend@cns.gov

Can I enroll in the course?

At this time, the course is only for VISTAs. However, many of the readings, archived materials, and supplemental materials from the course will be posted for public viewing and use in the VISTA Campus.

Course Credit

Upon successful completion of a VISTA Blend course, you will have an option to receive transferable credit recommendations:

- *Resource Development: Fundraising & Grant Writing: 3 upper division semester credits in Communications, Marketing or Fundraising and Grant Writing.*
- *Volunteer Mobilization: 3 lower division semester credits in Human Resources or Communication.*

The credits for each course are equivalent to what you would receive for a semester-long class.

VISTA Blend credit recommendations are administered through the [American Council on Education \(ACE\)](#). After the course ends and you receive a passing grade, you'll receive instructions on setting up an account with ACE. It costs roughly \$40 to create an ACE account and registration includes a copy of your transcript showing your credit recommendation. You can then send your transcript to the college or university where you are pursuing study.

[A listing of schools known to accept credit recommendations from ACE is online.](#) If your school is not on this list, it does not mean the school will not accept the credit recommendations and it's best to check with the school directly to find out whether the credits will be accepted.